

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 181745
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 181745

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM LUSAKA DATED AUGUST 2, 1977
SENT SECSTATE WASHDC IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 2259

FOR IO ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, US, SF, WA

SUBJ: ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SWAPO TALKS

REF: (A) LUSAKA 2235; (B) STATE 179942

1. AS INDICATED IN REFTTEL A, EMBASSY ASKED ALITALIA TO CONTACT ITS AGENTS IN LUANDA AND LAGOS AND REWRITE SWAPO DELEGATIONS TICKETS ECONOMY. AFTER RECEIPT REFTTEL B WE REQUESTED ALITALIA TO CONFIRM WHETHER OR NOT TICKETS HAD IN FACT BEEN REWRITTEN. ALITALIA WAS ATTEMPTED DURING COURSE OF DAY TO REACH ITS OFFICE IN LUSANDA WITH NO SUCCESS. IT TICKETS HAVE BEEN REWRITTEN, IT WOULD SEEM TO US THAT IT MIGHT BE BETTER TO LEAVE THEM ECONOMY INSTEAD OF REVERTING TO FIRST CLASS. ONE, IT WOULD BE EMBARRASSING A SECOND TIME TOPREWRITE THE TICKETS, AND TWO, IF WE NOW
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REQFST THAT THEY BE REWRITTEN AS FIRST CLASS OUR CASE FOR GDTING THE BOOKING AGENT P ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR ITS ERROR WILL BE LESSENED.

2. SINCE WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO ESTABLISH WHAT HAS HAPPENED WITH THE TICKETS FROM THIS END, THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO ASK EMBASSY LAGOS TO DO SO, AND INSTRUCT THE EMBASSY AS TO

WHETHER, IF THEY ARE NOW ECONOMY, THEY SHOULD BE CHANGED
BACK TO FIRST CLASS.

3. PLEASE NOTE THAT WE HAVE DISCUSSED TICKETING PROBLEMS
IN SOME DETAIL WITH SWAPO VICE PRESIDENT MUYONGO. HE IS
NOT CONCERNED ABOUT THE TICKETS BEING REWRITTEN AS ECONOMY
AS LONG AS NUJOMA GOES FIRST CLASS. HE READILY ACCEPTED
THE EXPLANATION THAT ONLY AMBASSADORS AND ABOVE TRAVEL FIRST
CLASS IN THE AMERICAN SYSTEM AS JUSTIFICATION FOR CHANGING
THE TICKETS TO ECONOMY. FURTHER, THE TENTH MEMBER OF THE
DELEGATION, BOMANI, WHO DID NOT TRAVEL WITH THE GROUP TO
LUANDA IMMEDIATELY SAW THE RATIONALE FOR LIMITING TICKETS
TO ECONOMY. UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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